



# ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH, GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS P. SCOTT, DIRECTOR

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** August 3, 2005  
**TO:** Bureau of Land File  
**FROM:** James M. Salch *JMS*  
**SUBJECT:** Century Smelting & Refining Co.

Re: LPC# 0316315295--Cook County  
 Chicago/Century Smelting & Refining Co.  
 SF/HRS

On June 9, 2005, the Illinois Environment Protection Agency's (Illinois EPA's) Office of Site Evaluation (OSE) conducted a site reconnaissance of property located at 2135 S. Loomis Street, Cook County, Chicago, Illinois. Records indicate that this property was once owned and operated by the Century Smelting & Refining Co. This address is located just north of the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal and W. Cermak Road, between S. Ashland Avenue to the west and S. Halsted Street to the east. Currently, this is the location of a small fenced in gravel covered parking lot owned by H. Kramer & Co., a secondary brass and bronze smelter. The H. Kramer & Co. operations take up the majority of the block between W. Cermak Road and W. 21<sup>st</sup> Street, and between S. Loomis Street and S. Throop Street. A few older brick buildings are located adjacent to the parking lot on the southern portion of the block. The surrounding area south of W. 21<sup>st</sup> Street is primarily used for industrial/commercial purposes. Residential dwellings are present north of W. 21<sup>st</sup> Street. The likelihood of human exposure to contaminated media, if present from the Century Smelting & Refining Co. location, would be restricted to H. Kramer employees who use the parking lot.

A review of Standard Metal Directories and Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps indicate that soft metal smelting occurred at this location in the 1940's. The Century Smelting & Refining Co. was listed as a Babbitt & Solder Manufacturer, and a Scrap Iron & Metal Dealer specializing in scrap metal. Based on the size of the building displayed on the Sanborn Maps, operations at this location are presumed to have been small scale. No information was available on State and Federal databases using the 2135 S. Loomis Street address, or the Century Smelting & Refining Co. name.

**RELEASABLE**

JAN 26 2006

ROCKFORD - 4302 North Main Street, Rockford, IL 61103 - (815) 987-7760 • DES PLAINES - 9511 W. Harrison St., Des Plaines, IL 60016 - (847) 294-4000  
 ELGIN - 595 South State, Elgin, IL 60123 - (847) 608-3131 • PEORIA - 5415 N. University St., Peoria, IL 61614 - (309) 693-5463  
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 SPRINGFIELD - 4500 S. Sixth Street Rd., Springfield, IL 62706 - (217) 786-6892 • COLLINSVILLE - 2009 Mall Street, Collinsville, IL 62236 - (618) 546-8111  
 MARION - 2309 W. Main St., Suite 116, Marion, IL 62959 - (618) 993-7200

**REVIEWER MD**

It appears metal smelting operations did occur at this property location in the 1940's. It does not appear that the 2135 S. Loomis Street property has been investigated previously by any State or Federal programs. The H. Kramer facility is currently the subject of a Pre-CERCLIS Screening Action being conducted by the OSE. Since the potential exists for the presence of hazardous materials at this location, it is recommended that this property be advanced to the Pre-CERCLIS stage for further investigation. Investigation of the property should include soil analysis using X-Ray Fluorescence technology.

JMS:jms